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MAGAZINES, TAKE PREGNANT PAUSE {page 06}

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BOSTON
Thursday, March 8, 2012

WENDY MAEDA/POOL/GLOBE STAFF

▶ Marcus Hurd, 33, provided the jury with a first-person account of what happened during a shooting that left him in a wheelchair and four other people dead.

Survivor: 'He shot me in the back of the head'

Only living victim of Mattapan massacre testifies about the night he was supposed to die Two men on trial for shooting, robbery that left four dead {page 02}

Sports

More on the decline of BC athletics

Former football coach O'Brien speaks with Metro Did AD 'badmouth' former coaches on the way out? {page 14}

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In the news

$1.5B

The amount the Patrick-Murray administration asked for in a bill submitted to the Legislature for a one-year transportation bond to maintain transportation-related infrastructure investments through fiscal year 2013. The bill provides $200 million in funds to cities and towns to rebuild and repair local roads an bridges. METRO

Today's local tweet

"You know who wears sunglasses on the subway, when it's underground? Blind people and aholes. #curb"**

@GREEN_LINER OBSERVING THE APPEARANCE OF SUNGLASSES ON THE GREEN LINE AS DAYLIGHT LASTS LONGER

BOSTON POLICE

Police looking for armed Mc-robbers

ROXBURY. Boston police are asking for the public's help identifying two men they said allegedly robbed a McDonald's in Egelston Square at gunpoint on Feb. 25.

Surveillance footage shows the armed suspects enter the fast food shop through the back entrance and proceed to rob the store.

Detectives determined that the suspects ate at the Roxbury McDonald's just three hours before they allegedly robbed the employees. METRO

Wahlberg takes one for the Teamsters

BOSTON. Dorchester native Mark Wahlberg will soon be working on his next Boston-based project — a reality show featuring a local union.

According to a press release, the "Entourage" producer has

signed on as the executive producer for a show highlighting the city's Teamsters Local 25 which is scheduled to run on A&E. Tentatively dubbed "Teamsters," the show will follow the struggles of the 11,000 person group. METRO

Man is busted for brandishing blade on T

ALLSTON. An Allston man was arrested Tuesday night for allegedly displaying a knife while on a Green Line train near Boston University, according to reports.

Boston University police officers arrested Ronald McNally Jr., 53, after witnesses identified him as the individual who took out the blade while on the trolley, according to reports.

Passengers allegedly fled the stopped train. There were no injuries. METRO

Lone Mattapan massacre survivor testifies at trial

Marcus Hurd was left a quadriplegic after being shot in the back of the head Defense team questions his statements to police, grand jury

BOSTON GLOBE/POOL

For the first time since 2010 when he was shot in the head and left in a row of bushes for dead, Marcus Hurd faced the accused gunmen yesterday.

The last time the men allegedly saw each other Hurd could walk.

But yesterday Hurd offered testimony from his electric wheelchair.

Hurd, now 33, testified in the murder trial of two men who are accused of shooting him and four other people during a robbery in Mattapan. It was one of the city's worst crimes in years and left the four other people, including a 2-year-old and his mother, dead.

Hurd's testimony gave the jury a stunning first-person account of how the robbery and killings were carried out.

He admitted to arriving at the home of one of the victims "to buy a bag of weed."

As Hurd and another man, Simba Martin, sat in Hurd's rented SUV, they were set upon by "a bald, heavyset man" who ordered them out of the car at gunpoint and to strip off their clothes.

"He said 'You all know what time it is,'" Hurd said, adding that he knew it was a robbery that was taking place.

The other gunmen, who he described as tall and skinny and holding a firearm that looked like a "mac" gun, made him stand naked in the corner of the apartment as they took a safe.

He said he was then forced outside by the "tall" gunman who was walking behind him. That's when he was ordered to lay in a cluster of bushes and was shot.

Hurd was still alive. He said he couldn't see anything in the bushes, but heard gunfire and then eventually sirens and police who were talking about the "dead bodies in the road."

He said he spoke up so the officers could find him. Hurd said he told them he was in the bushes and they told him to come out.

"I told him I couldn't move," Hurd said.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
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Defense tests witness

Defense attorneys used much of their time cross-examining Hurd to test his memory.

They repeatedly asked him about statements he made to police within weeks of the shooting.

At one point, a defense attorney referred to a transcript of Hurd's testimony and asked him about a detail in the way the robbery occurred. Hurd said if he told authorities that, it wasn't how it happened and his misspeaking could have been the result of him being "delusional" so soon after being shot in the head.

They also asked him if family members told him police accused three men in the shooting before Hurd could regain his memory. METRO/MN

Peek. A roo

▶ The Franklin Park Zoo had its new baby kangaroo 'joey' out for the first time with its mother Skippy.

COURTNEY SACCO/METRO

Franklin Park has a new, rare resident

The newest addition to the Franklin Park Zoo is now on exhibit, but it is a little shy. The baby kangaroo is still in its mother's pouch and took a little while to appear before a small crowd at the exhibit yesterday. The zoo announced the birth of the joey last week. Zoo officials have so far been unable to confirm the sex of the joey because it has been in its mother's pouch. METRO

Fenway Park is now officially historic

Yesterday marked a grand slam for Boston's beloved baseball stadium as Fenway Park was welcomed on a list of nationally recognized landmarks.

State officials announced that Fenway has been added to the National Register of Historic Places, following a nomination submitted by the Massachusetts Historical Commission in December.

Now on the list, Fenway can't undergo major changes without approval. METRO/SA

"Listing Fenway Park ... will help preserve this exceptional place for future generations to enjoy"

SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH WILLIAM GALVIN

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NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ The study and report will be confidential until President Robert Brown decides to release it.

BU to examine hockey culture

◗ 16-member task force will report back at end of summer ◗ Players actions, records to be scrutinized

A team of 16 academics will examine Boston University's hockey "culture" as part of a task force formed by the school's president, Robert Brown.

As promised by Brown last week, the group was assembled to "restore" the team's name, following sexual assault allegations against two of the university's star hockey players.

"These charges have given rise to legitimate and serious questions about whether the hockey team's culture and climate have contributed in some way to the actions of the two individuals," Brown wrote in a letter to the task force. "The University must address these questions and, if deficiencies are identified, make appropriate and necessary changes."

The team will be tasked with delivering a report by the end of the summer so the school can consider making necessary changes before the next academic year begins, according to Brown's letter.

The two separate sexual assault cases, brought against players Max Nicastro and Corey Trivino, both 21, shadowed the school in the last three months.

"We will take whatever steps are necessary to restore the community's confidence in our men's ice hockey program," said Brown.

STEVE ANNEAR
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Task force to the rescue

BU President Robert Brown wants the 16-person team to conduct research so the school can make changes. The plan is to:

- **Compare** how hockey players perform academically to others
- **Scrutinize** hockey players interactions in the BU community, comparing their conduct with typical students
- **Examine** the disciplinary history of the hockey squad and how it matches up
- **Reach out and interview** faculty, staff and students, including members of the hockey squad

News in brief

▶ Yusuf

Woman attacks cop

BOSTON. A Boston woman who allegedly swore at train passengers and hit a police officer was arrested Tuesday night.

Aisha Abdi Yusuf, 22, was allegedly being disruptive on an Orange Line train when an officer returning from a detail at the TD Garden asked her to calm down.

Police escorted Yusuf from the train at Back Bay station where she allegedly hit, bit and kicked the officers who were arresting her. ● METRO

Elderly woman very much alive

FALL RIVER. An 84-year-old woman was stopped dead in her tracks when she went to vote during Super Tuesday's primary and an election worker told her that she was listed as deceased.

According to reports, a warden at Maureen McCloskey's polling place in Fall River told the elderly voter she "was dead."

The mix-up was allegedly caused by an oversight in the newest census data, according to WCVB. ● METRO

Man faces sex with minor charges

BOSTON. A Shrewsbury man was charged yesterday for allegedly having sex with a minor during a visit to the Dominican Republic.

Conrad Gallant, 61, allegedly traveled to the country and participated in sex acts with a 14-year-old girl. ● METRO

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myentertainment

2

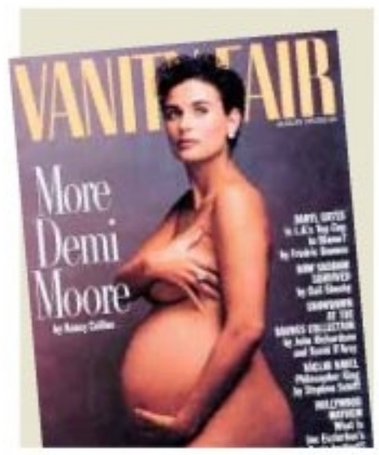
THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Magazine covers: Doin' the bump

As a fellow pregnant lady, I'm all for **Jessica Simpson** posing on the cover of Elle magazine while hoisting around a fetus. Yay for the miracle of life and all that. But why oh why did she have to do it naked? With the exception of **Demi Moore**'s famous 1991 nude pregnancy photo for Vanity Fair, which set the bar for pregnancy photo shoots, why have any of these stars shown off their naked bellies on magazine covers? It's as though these magazines — and starlets — need to flaunt the skin, just so you won't mistake them for being, well, fat. Because a woman with actual curves on a fashion magazine? What a crazy concept!

But perhaps I'm wrong and am just being a prude. What do you think of the omnipresent naked pregnant celebrity cover trend? Do you want more naked bump in your life or do you prefer your pregnant celebrities lookin' good — but with maybe a shirt on?



Life&Style
WEEKLY
ALL ABOUT THE BABIES!
Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon share their baby joy with a beautiful photo shoot. All the details on their 'super active' baby girl and the baby boy who will 'look just like Daddy.'

There's a girl in there!

In the Elle feature, Simpson confirmed that she and fiance **Eric Johnson** are expecting a baby girl. Still, given Johnson's athleticism, Simpson is worried her daughter won't be girlie enough. "I swear, I will croak if she asks me for a pair of Nikes instead of Christian Louboutins," she tells the magazine. "We're gonna have this athletic girl and I won't even be able to take her shopping, because all she's going to want is sports bras and Nikes."

The feed ...

Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Paris Hilton has moved on, Nicole Richie is trying to be helpful, Patton Oswalt is discovering new things about himself, and Albert Brooks doesn't quite understand Occupy Wall Street.

@ParisHilton
Don't judge me by my past, I don't live there anymore.

@nicolerichie
No grandma, I don't think you're ready for bikini season

@pattonoswalt
Just realized I know all the words to Whitney Houston's "How Will I Know?" Closest I'll ever come to being Jason Bourne.

@AlbertBrooks
If I were president I would allow poor people to drink 1% milk.

Richie

Talking points

Ferrell's makeup where the sun don't shine

Will Ferrell's role in his new film, "Casa de mi Padre," turned out to be quite revealing. "Someone had the either wonderful or horrible task of putting makeup on my ass," he tells Rolling Stone magazine. But baring all isn't something that bothers the "Saturday Night Live" alum. "This kind of thing is not a big deal to me," he explains. "In college, they had this thing where you'd run naked on fraternity row, and if anyone challenged me, I'd be happy to do it." Another college experience he was happy to do? Losing his virginity at age 21. "In my mind's eye, it seemed like the way it was supposed to happen," he says, admitting that his mom had assumed he'd lost it much earlier.

Hewitt loves her boobs, too

Jennifer Love Hewitt has something in common with her fans when it comes to appreciating certain parts of her anatomy. "It's horrible to say, but I like my boobs," the former "Ghost Whisperer" star tells Maxim magazine when asked what body part she is most proud of. "They've always served me well. They're good." Well, maybe they haven't served her that well recently, the currently single Hewitt admits: "It might sound so stupid, but guys do not hit on me," she says. "I'm not really sure why."

Snooki confirms the pregnancy rumors

"Jersey Shore" star **Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi** has taken to the cover of Us Weekly to announce what everyone already knew: that she's pregnant and engaged. "I have different priorities now," Polizzi says. "As long as I know I'm ready and [fiance **Jionni LaValle**] is ready." The reality star admits that discovery of her pregnancy — right after New Year's — caused a moment of panic. Her first thought? "'S—, I've been drinking,'" she says. "I was worried."

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10 Reasons to hit the movies this weekend

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▶ Disney's sci-fi adventure "John Carter" opens this weekend.

1 'John Carter' In Disney's adaptation of Edgar Rice Burroughs' novels, Taylor Kitsch plays a Civil War vet who can't catch a break: He ends up on Mars, gets taken prisoner and then has to go back and save the princess after he escapes.

2 'A Thousand Words' Eddie Murphy angers a spiritual guru, inciting a curse — or a blessing, if that's your bag, hippie — that gives him only 1,000 words to speak before he dies.

3 'Silent House' Supposedly based on a true story, this low-budget haunted house horror flick tells the story of a father and daughter who have been hired to restore an old cottage — but the weird noise coming from the top floor wasn't in the contract.

4 'Project X' Shot hand-held by a cast of unknowns, this one — like every great high school film — is about nerds who conquer all by throwing a rager.

5 'Dr. Seuss' The Lorax' Zac Efron, Danny DeVito, Taylor Swift and Ed Helms voice the central characters in the beloved environmentalist children's story about the extinction of the "truffula trees."

6 'Wanderlust' Paul Rudd and Jennifer Aniston star in this Judd Apatow-produced comedy about an unemployed couple who go in search of an unconventional life on a hippie commune.

7 'Good Deeds' Tyler Perry writes, directs and stars in this story about a successful man, named Deeds, who is jolted out of his predictable existence by doing, you guessed it, good deeds.

8 'Gone' Amanda Seyfried plays a woman haunted by the abduction of her sister two years prior. When she begins to believe the kidnapper is back for her, she sets out to face him head on.

9 'Act of Valor' Actual active duty Navy SEALs star in this very-close to reality imagining of what it's like to be on special operations in the present day.

10 'Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance' The Nicolas Cage franchise about a man afflicted with spirit of the Ghost Rider returns, this time to save a child possessed by the devil.

TV watch list

JOHN P. FILO/CBS

▶ Reese (Jim Caviezel, pictured) and Finch go into protection mode when The Machine spits out the social security number of a baby on "Person of Interest."

'Person of Interest'

DRAMA. When The Machine singles out a 6-month-old baby, the "Is this a victim or evil-doer?" quandary that Finch and Reese usually face isn't even an issue — unless crying for no discernable reason is deemed an act of terrorism, which some new parents may rally for. Either way, we love Reese as a protective parent, even if only to see him rocking the baby sling. **9 p.m., CBS**

'Saving Face'

MOVIE. If you're still catching up on watching this year's Oscar winners, you can tick Best Documentary Short off your list tonight. "Saving Face" chronicles the work of plastic surgeon Dr. Mohammad Jawad, who returns to his homeland of Pakistan to perform reconstructive surgery the victims of acid violence. **8:30 p.m., HBO**

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So you say you want a revolution?

The A.R.T.'s co-production of 'Wild Swans' is a riveting historical account of contemporary China If none of the excellent actors stand out, that's probably because they've played their parts perfectly

CHRIS KASH

From left, Annie Chang, Ron Nakahara and Oliver Biles get "Wild."

"Wild Swans" is a visually stunning spectacle that gets more intriguing every time you revisit the experience.

And you will revisit it often, as the world-premiere stage adaptation of Jung Chang's best-selling epic memoir is rife with potential dialogue about everything from its stellar production values to the evolution of life in contemporary China.

Spanning four decades and five acts, "Wild Swans" chronicles the lives of a mother, daughter and grandmother whose hopes and dreams are as volatile as the political climate of a country experiencing the Communist Revolution, Cultural Revolution and subsequent emergence into world power. All in a neatly-packaged, intermission-free 90-minutes that unfold in panoramic fashion.

Each scene change is impeccably orchestrated by workers (actors) who move set pieces, shovel dirt and engineer a revolution with an ideological mob mentality that many clung to until it was too late.

It would have been easy to cash in on marquee value for this co-production of the A.R.T., London's Young Vic Theatre and Actors' Touring Company. Katie Leung, who plays Er-Hong, was Harry's first love interest in a little film franchise called "Harry Potter." But Leung, like everyone and everything else in this grand scale production, is just another essential moving part in the story.

At times it feels like there's a bit of an emotional disconnect between the audience and the characters that might look like an acting misstep. But it feels more deliberate than accidental and could actually be an intentional cultural manifestation. Form your own opinion.

If you go

'Wild Swans'
Through Sunday
American Repertory Theater
64 Brattle St., Cambridge
$25-$65, 617-547-8300
www.americanrepertorytheater.org

One of the best things about "Wild Swans" is that it leaves so many things open for thoughtful analysis and potential discussion that you'll certainly run out of time long before you'll run out of postshow dialogue.

Plot points

"Wild Swans" is adapted from Jung Chang's 1991 memoir which chronicles the lives of Chang, her mother and grandmother as they navigate their way through the rise and fall of Mao Zedong's regime. Family loyalty and political beliefs clash as they grapple with poverty, home invasions, death and the fallout from cultural revolution.

NICK DUSSAULT
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▶ *To My Wife Deanna Grierson, who I love beyond words can express. My past, present, and future would not have the value it has without you. Love Always, Your Husband, Sheermoy Grierson*

▶ ***Joe, my whole life has changed since you came in. Our laughs, walks, emails, VM's, chats, nights, wake up calls, hugs, kisses, lunch, L1 meetings and cards are the most precious gift life has given me since 12\9\2011. I love you so much. Hmmm.***

▶ *My one and only love, Ssangz- Everyday I thank god for sending me such a perfect partner to my life. Love Cat.*

▶ ***From Goofus to Beautiful: You've got me always thinking about you. Sending my love from the East Coast to McBaker. Can't wait to see you.***

▶ *Happy B-Day my dear Jonathan!! May this day be one of the most memorable and beautiful! I love you very much...us always, S*

Shrink wrap

DR. JANE GREER

HEALTH.METRO.US

Conan O'Brien recently offered a solution for the lonely-hearted: Watch his video of celebrities flirting directly with viewers. From John Krasinski to Emmy Rossum to Fred Armisen, the stars looked at the camera and acted like they were meeting you in a bar and hoped to hook up. Some of those flirters might be looking for love, but what about John Krasinski, who is married? Do you think his wife minded? In this case, he may have just been playing a role, but people in relationships deal with this question all the time: Is flirting good or bad?

The answer is that it depends. For everyone, putting yourself out there with other people of the opposite sex and making smart conversation helps you feel desirable and confident. If, however, you are already in a relationship, then you want to make sure all that heightened sexual energy is stored up for your partner, who you will share it with later. If your relationship is solid and you feel you are being given enough one-on-one time, then a little flirting is OK. Sometimes watching your partner flirt can even give you a sense of pride.

But if it makes you feel threatened, then it might not be such a good thing. If the foundation of a relationship isn't strong, it can increase your feelings of doubt and mistrust. The person doing the flirting might feel good, but it might make the other partner feel insecure.

If that's the case, it's a good time to take stock and realize that rather than looking outward, you should focus your energy inward to work on strengthening your trust. You can do this by being affectionate, complimentary and expressing your love. If you still feel uncomfortable when your partner flirts with others, it can also help to set ground rules. For example, a little conversation might be OK — but if it goes beyond that and someone offers or asks for a phone number, the answer is no.

The goal is to make flirting work as a positive rather than a negative for your relationship.

▶ Krasinski's only got eyes for his wife ... and Conan ... and maybe you.

COURTESY OF TBS

— Relationship expert **Dr. Jane Greer** *is the creator of* ***"Shrink Wrap"*** *– national commentary on what we can learn from celebrity relationships – and host of* ***"Let's Talk Sex"*** *at* ***Healthylife.net.*** *Her book,* ***"What About Me? Stop Selfishness From Ruining Your Relationship,"*** *is available nationwide.*

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Letters

letters@metro.us

For Internet news, get the facts straight

RE: "ANONYMOUS LEADER 'WAS AN FBI INFORMER'": If you are going to report something related to the Internet, please get your facts straight. It was not Anonymous, it was Lulzsec, a separate hacking group with little affiliation to Anonymous. They operated for 50 days from April to June last year. It was only one leader for Lulzsec, and he ratted out the others. **ANDREW ALI, VIA E-MAIL**

"People should be able to express their opinion without having to be second-guessed"

RE: "A 'GROWING PAINS' REACTION": I am glad and proud that Kirk Cameron stood his ground and did not apologize for what he believes. For Christians, the Bible is the word of God, but God's word doesn't change to make certain people happy. In contrast with Tracy Morgan, he apologized after his remarks on the show, not because he was sorry but because of the pressure; he is another Limbaugh, if you ask me. People should be able to express their opinion without having to be second-guessed by people who disagree with them. **CARLOS SWABY, VIA E-MAIL**

Fanatical groups are utilizing a golden opportunity to force Rush Limbaugh off the airwaves, yet not a peep in the media about Rep. Maxine Waters' tirade at a recent Democratic shindig calling Republican contenders "demons" and telling Tea Partiers to "go straight to hell." Waters isn't the only liberal given a pass. Why is the media backing this campaign? **MARK HALPERN, VIA E-MAIL**

Anyone who is angry about Bill Maher calling Palin the C-word has a right to be upset. Limbaugh only called Ms. Fluke a slut and prostitute. Bill Maher had no right referring to Palin as "competent." **ROBERT LA ROSA, VIA E-MAIL**

Support of Israel not so clear cut

RE: SUPPORT OF ISRAEL PAYS DIVIDENDS": Please don't confuse "Israel bashing" with legitimate criticism of American and Israeli foreign policy in the region. Israel is free to make its own decisions just like the U.S. is free to disagree with those decisions. It's OK for friends to disagree. And if Israel decides they still want war, then they should go it alone. No U.S. troops, no U.S. dollars. **CARL HANSON, VIA E-MAIL**

Don't Iraq Iran! The tail should not wag the dog. With all the support we give Israel they should listen to us, not the other way around; otherwise we should stop the support. The United States cannot pin its future to Israel nor can it allow Israel to dictate or control our future. **CHRIS GOLDSMITH, VIA E-MAIL**

In the '80s a war was being fought in Afganistan; the CIA chief stated: "All we can do is supply the freedom fighters with Russian made weapons." Some of those are known to have been sourced from Granada, but the statement quoted above was made months before that invasion. So Israel facilitated the rise of Osama Bin Laden. For that we should be thankful? **CHARLIE CHACE, VIA E-MAIL**

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** When you're permitted to establish your own agenda, you'll function at your best. It behooves you to steer clear of anyone who always makes demands on your time.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Adopting a negative attitude will only make disruptive matters worse than they already are. If you think everything is going against you, solutions won't be possible.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Getting involved in petty politics with someone who is adroit in that kind of game- playing is not a wise thing to do. He or she will do his or her best to make you look bad.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Whatever you do, don't let your ego or temper cause you to challenge someone who could have an influence over your work or career. It might be one match you can't win.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Getting in the last word shouldn't be important to you if it results in the possibility of jeopardizing a valued friendship. It would turn out to be a win that would mean a big loss.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Be on guard so that someone in trouble doesn't maneuver you into a position where you would be held accountable for his or her mistake or debt.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** If you ignore your own counsel and do something that goes against your better judgment, you could end up paying dearly for the consequences of this folly. Stay sharp and be cool.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** It's not that you won't have adequate drive and ambition to handle everyday matters, it's more likely that you will be tempted to take on something that exceeds your limitations. Be honest about your abilities.

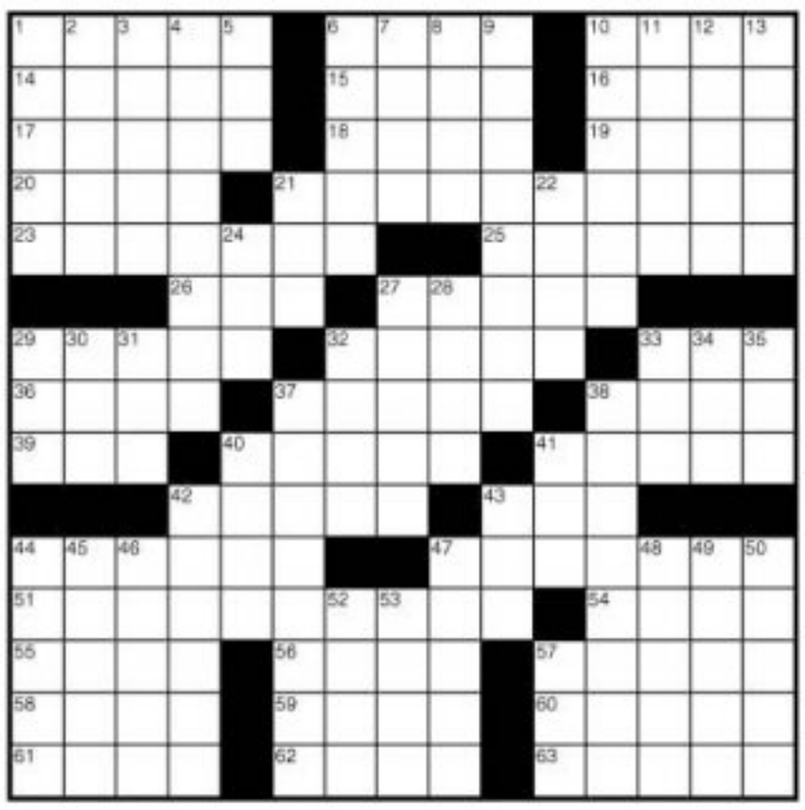
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** It won't add any luster to your image if you deliberately do things that buck the will of the majority, just to prove your independence. All it will do is make you look selfish.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Limit the discussion of family problems to the participants only. If you talk to others about private matters, you'll be inviting them to butt in and introduce added dissension.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Gauge your audience well so that you don't inadvertently introduce a topic about which you feel strongly to someone who holds an equally strong opposing opinion.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** If you leave something you value lying about in plain sight, it's likely to tempt someone with sticky fingers. Be more careful with your prize possessions. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

Across
1 Investigation
6 Do nothing
10 Feeling joyful
14 Less refined
15 Range in Asia
16 Tick off
17 Mercator's tome
18 Yukon, briefly
19 Revival shout
20 Bug repellent
21 Investigate (3 wds.)
23 Largest bird
25 Ankle opposites
26 Here, to Pierre
27 No-frills
29 Peaceful protest
32 Winter wear
33 Lightning by-product
36 Sunblock additive
37 City near Incheon
38 Hind's mate
39 To date
40 Lowered oneself
41 Alice's cat
42 Prepares food
43 Store-bought hair
44 Uncultivated
47 Drip catcher (2 wds.)
51 Hive product (2 wds.)
54 Speaker brand
55 Fouls up
56 Oscar's cousin
57 Sunny side
58 AAA suggestions
59 Shotgun caliber
60 A Muppet
61 Not hard
62 Cinch
63 Maestro Previn



Down
1 Madrid museum
2 Loan figures
3 Young screecher
4 Dante's ideal
5 Pause fillers
6 Gate fastener
7 Dairy-case buy
8 Seniors' PAC
9 Network protector
10 Potatoes au __
11 VIP wheels
12 Kayak user
13 Fender mishaps
21 __-fi flick
22 Tall flower
24 I, to Fritz
27 Office bets
28 Unmannered one
29 The "merry month"
30 Malt beverage
31 Nonsense!
32 Calendar row
33 Fleming or McKellen
34 Mouths
35 Utmost degree
37 Deceptions (2 wds.)
38 Of noble family
40 __ & the Gang
41 Morse click
42 Swank
43 Technique
44 Jacques, in song
45 Major artery
46 Ancient harps
47 Censor
48 Heap
49 Moving around
50 Giggle (hyph.)
52 Poet's black
53 Milan money, once
57 Continent divider

	7				2	4		
	6		4	9				
2			7	8				
	9		8		7		1	2
		6		4		8		
5	2		3		6		9	
				2	1			8
				3	4		7	
		4	6				5	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

		5						
	6		3		2	1		
		2		1			7	3
6				9		4		7
	2		8		6		9	
7		9		2				8
4	7			3		5		
		3	2		4		8	
						9		

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS: WWW.METRO.US/PUZZLES

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food&drink

How sweet Sweet Cheeks is

- Tiffani Faison brings great taste to the table
- New eatery offers delicious barbecue at a good value

Nosh On

LINDA LABAN
LINDA.LABAN@METRO.US

Since opening in November (on the great date of 11/11/11), Sweet Cheeks has brought buzz and bustle to Boylston Street's once dead-end stretch through the Fenway. Come Sox season, it's likely there won't be a seat in the house — so get your fix now.

Courtesy of been-there/done-that chef and owner Tiffani Faison (Rocca, Todd English, Daniel Boulud), this Southern-style barbecue restaurant is casual — but bib-free — and easy on your wallet. Take the all-in dinner trays, which are laden with a choice of meat and two sides, and two hunks of sliced white bread. It's a meal and then some, but don't neglect wonderful sides like crisply coated fried okra or green tomatoes, which are big enough for two or even three.

But the real value is the cooking quality, which starts with naturally raised animals. The pink, succulent St. Louis pork rib has a wonderful sweetness. It doesn't need the piquant, house-made sauces that sit on the table. Though those are too good not to play with!

COURTESY OF SWEET CHEEKS

It's easy to see why Faison, pictured, came up with the name Sweet Cheeks.

▶ You'd be lucky to ever find Sweet Cheeks so empty (1381 Boylston St., Boston, 617-266-1300, www.sweetcheeksq.com).

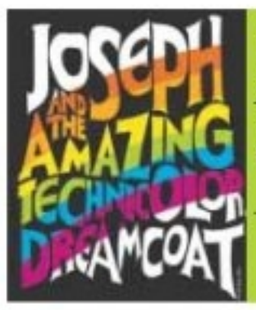
The beef short rib is great too. The slab is just short of black, but there's no taste of charring because the color is due to a wonderful alchemy involving spices, heat, oak and the luscious fat of the tender meat. It's rich stuff and filling.

A little goes a long way, but it's unlikely you'll stop at a little.

If you go

Heartless Jezebel!

No, we are not bad-mouthing you with that phrase in bold above, we're good-mouthing Sweet Cheeks' cranberry rum punch with that name. It's got summer written all over it and is the perfect bar pal or dinner starter. To finish? How about a gooey, perfectly sweet pecan and chocolate hand pie, which is like a turnover. Ah sweet Southern accents will get you every time. Entrees range from $17 to $25.



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March 16-17 at 8 p.m. Community College
March 18 at 2 p.m. Wellesley, MA
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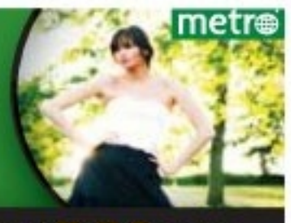
newtoncountryplayers.org



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TAG theater & arts guide

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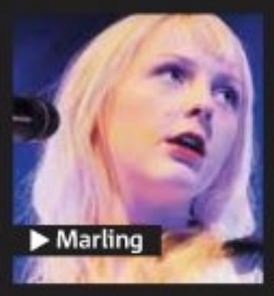

Marling

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(On sale Friday)

Radiohead
May 29
Comcast Center
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Dave Matthews Band
with Carolina Chocolate Drops
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Sarah McLachlan
July 6
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Big Time Rush
With Cody Simpson
Aug. 12
Comcast Center
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Amon Tobin
ISAM Live Tour
Sept. 12
House of Blues
(On sale Friday)

Brit Floyd provides a Pink Floyd live experience almost as good as the real thing The only difference is that you would never be able to see the real thing in a venue so intimate

COMFORTABLY FUN

The Pink Floyd Sound

Since Pink Floyd are from Britain, isn't going by Brit Floyd a bit like calling your U.S.-based Aerosmith act Amerosmith? Darlington says the potential redundancy is almost inherent in the structure of the original Australian Pink Floyd, which he joined in 1994, when "one of the original Aussies had gone home to Australia."

"It was that whole sort of irony about when we were touring that there were no Australians in it," he says, and when the group splintered in 2010 "we decided to go our own way, call it the British Pink Floyd, and then we shortened it to Brit Floyd because it's a bit more snappy."

You know who else shortened their name to make it sound more snappy? Pink Floyd! The group started in the '60s as The Pink Floyd Sound, named after two blues musicians.

Brit Floyd may be the purest tribute band on the planet. The group, who re-create the music and live experience of Pink Floyd, broke off from another group of people playing the same songs that called themselves Australian Pink Floyd. This seems like an uncanny echo of the split between Floyd founder Roger Waters and the rest of the members who carried on without him.

"I suppose it would be the logical thing to think that we've taken the tribute idea to its extreme and paid tribute to the actual politics of Pink Floyd itself," jokes musical director Damian Darlington.

But unlike the original Floyd, Darlington says the division wasn't bitter.

"There's no feuding," he says. "These things happen. People want to go in different directions, so myself and all the other guys in Brit Floyd who have been doing all the tours in North America decided to strike off and do our own thing."

"I suppose it would be the logical thing to think that we've taken the tribute idea to its extreme and paid tribute to the actual politics of Pink Floyd itself."
DARLINGTON

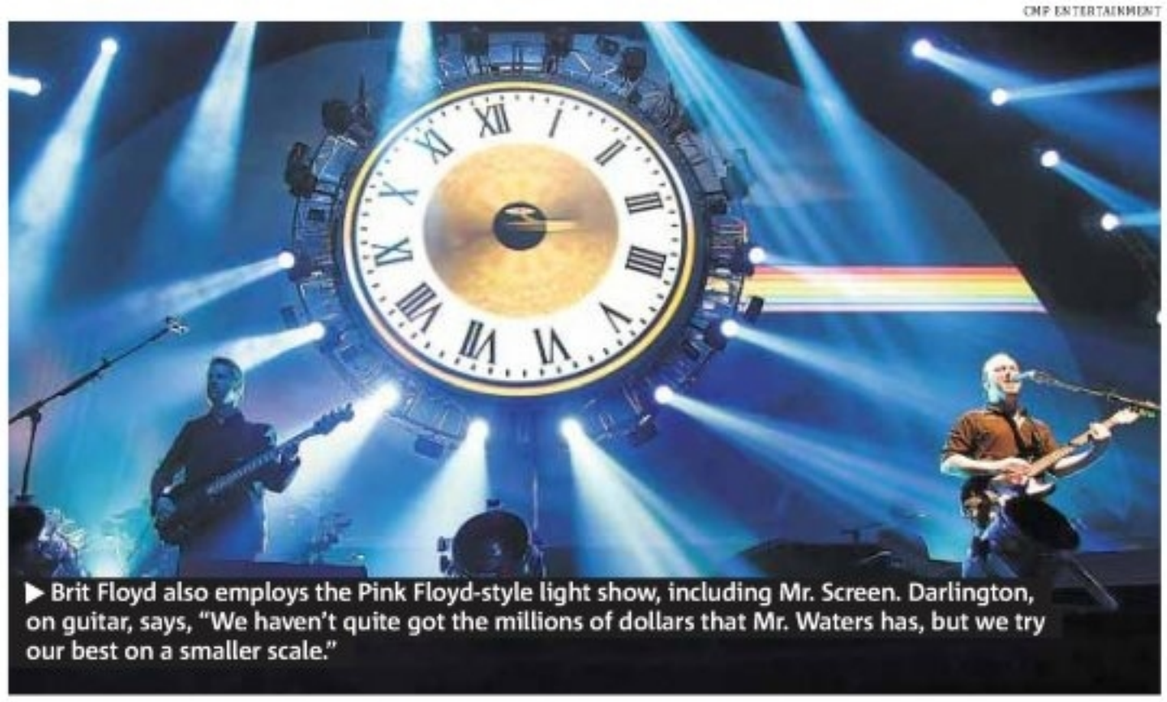
And doing their own thing this year means the A Foot in the Door world tour, which celebrates the "Best of" album that their heroes released in November. The show includes career-spanning classics like "See Emily Play," "Wish You Were Here," "Comfortably Numb" and "Learning to Fly." Also in the set is "Echoes," the 23-minute song that dominated Floyd's 1971 "Meddle" album.

"I don't know if it's the hardest to play," says Darlington of the opus. "It's certainly a challenge to do it right. It's a substantial piece of music and you go through all sorts of moods on your journey through it. It's very much where Pink Floyd seemed to find their sound."

But Darlington, who has received direct praise from Floyd members David Gilmour and the late Richard Wright, says his favorite song is from "The Wall," the album that first exposed him to Floyd as a 10-year-old: "As a guitarist, I'd have to say 'Comfortably Numb,' because it's one of the iconic rock 'n' roll solos, right up there with 'Stairway to Heaven.'"

PAT HEALY
pat.healy@metro.us

CMP ENTERTAINMENT



Brit Floyd also employs the Pink Floyd-style light show, including Mr. Screen. Darlington, on guitar, says, "We haven't quite got the millions of dollars that Mr. Waters has, but we try our best on a smaller scale."

If you go

Brit Floyd
Sunday, 8 p.m.
House of Blues
$35-$50, 800-745-3000
www.livenation.com

Also onstage

'All the Single Ladies'

Saturdays through Oct. 20
Parris Room, Ned Devine's
Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston
$25, 617-263-6887
www.improvasylum.com

This improv show, perfect for a "girls night out" or bachelorette party group, follows the dramas of four single female friends (all played, hilariously, by men) on their last night out before one of them ties the knot. They interact with the crowd throughout the night, dancing and carrying on quite conspicuously, breaking both the gender wall and the fourth wall.

RICHIE MORIARTY

If you like it then you should've put a ring on it.

The Chieftains

Wednesday, 8 p.m.
Symphony Hall
301 Mass. Ave., Boston
$57-$75, 617-482-6661
www.celebrityseries.org

KEVIN KELLY

The Chieftains usher in St. Paddy's Day next week.

This veteran Irish traditional music combo, now in their 50th year, has been instrumental in popularizing Irish roots music across the globe. Their countless pop album guest spots have made them, like Ravi Shankar, as much symbols of their music as great players of it. They arrive here just in time to gear us up for St. Paddy's.

MATTHEW DINARO

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GOING OUT IN STYLE

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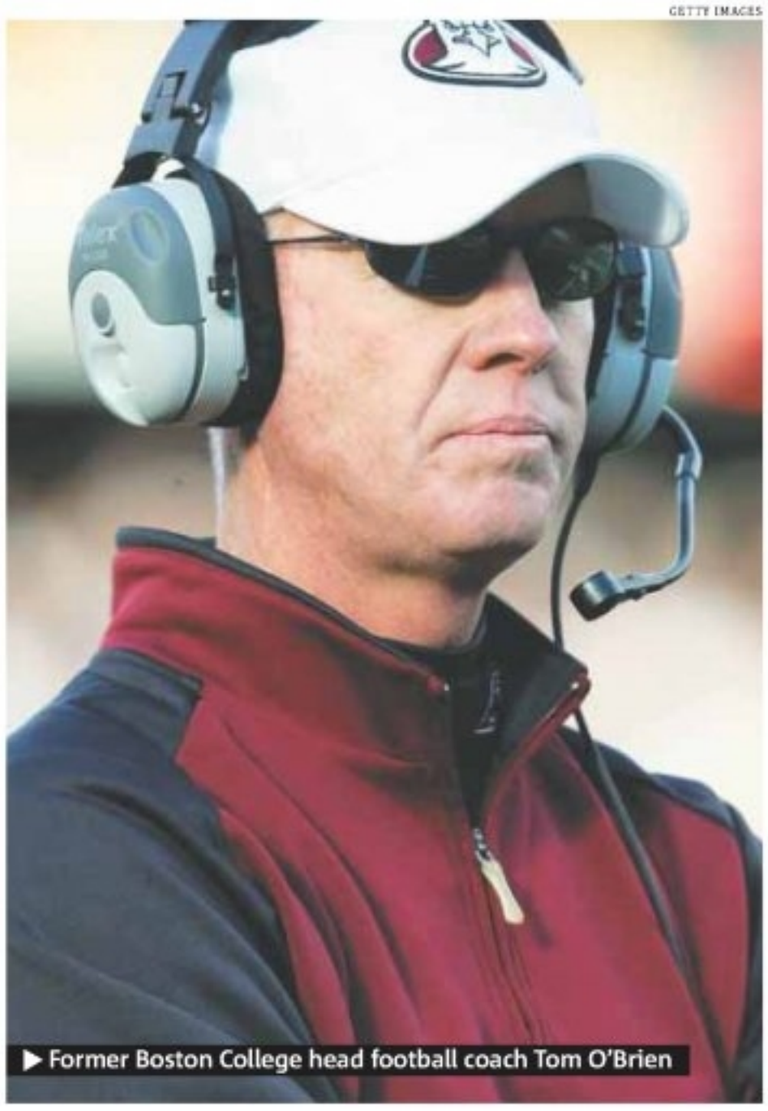

▶ Former Boston College head football coach Tom O'Brien

O'Brien, Bagley talk BC's decline

◗ Former head football coach, legendary point guard speak about BC ◗ Did AD 'badmouth' former coaches?

Former Boston College head football coach Tom O'Brien, who guided the Eagles to six straight postseason bowl wins, a 75-45 record in his tenure and had BC ranked as the 18th winningest football program of the 21st century when he left for ACC-rival North Carolina State in 2006, spoke with Metro regarding Monday's "Big Issue" on the decline of his former school.

"I don't have a good look at the thing because I've been gone for five years now and am looking from the outside in," O'Brien said. "The story was sent to me and I think obviously the numbers support what you wrote."

O'Brien also spoke of his departure from the school in 2006.

"That's not my decision, that's their choice," O'Brien said. "They're capable of making those types of choices to put them in a position to be better. But I thought we left the program in great shape."

O'Brien said that he is happy with the way things have worked out at NC State.

"The last two years have started to show some of the fruition of the work we've done," O'Brien said. "In the last two years, there are only two teams that have won more games than us in the ACC (Virginia Tech and Florida State). So are we on the right path? I'd say we are."

▶ Former BC and Celtics guard John Bagley

'Bags' speaks out

John Bagley, a star point guard for Boston College in the 1980s, also spoke with Metro regarding the downfall of the two revenue programs.

"Things should not be going in the direction they're going," Bagley said. "Going to a prestigious college like Boston College that's built up a great legacy of athletics and memories, it's hard to believe that that doesn't exist anymore."

Bagley, who will make a rare appearance as a BC representative this weekend at the ACC men's basketball tournament in Atlanta, said that he wished he and more alumni could be more involved with the current direction of the program.

"My (affiliation with BC) today is very limited," Bagley said. "I don't know why things have changed in any capacity. I don't know if it was the players and I don't know what the cause of (the downward trend) is."

Scathing tweet

Former BC guard Tyrese Rice tweeted the following:

ReseRice4: I probably won't ever step foot on BC campus again. So much going on up there that outsiders don't see. (What's goin on?)

BC badmouthing?

Sources close to the athletic department allege that current athletic director Gene DeFilippo "badmouthed" former men's basketball coach Al Skinner and former football coach O'Brien to other Division I athletic departments in recent years.

"I know (DeFilippo) called over to St. John's and badmouthed (Skinner) and his staff. He certainly didn't make it easy for (Skinner) to get another job," one source said. "Gene has a lot of power. But you have an individual here where that power corrupted him. All of his hires have been disastrous."

Metro asked O'Brien to comment on negative phone calls placed to NC State.

"I have no comment. None," O'Brien said.

Despite multiple efforts, DeFilippo's office again declined to speak with Metro regarding this story.

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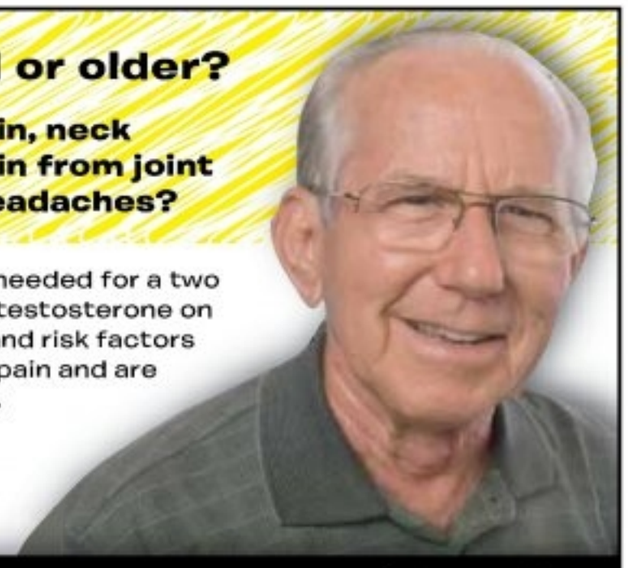

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